

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

June 30, 1981

POLAND: Party Congress Preparations

The leadership has begun intensive final preparations for the party congress. [REDACTED]

Party leader Kania met in Warsaw yesterday with key delegates to the congress from around the country, just hours after local organizations selected the last of the almost 2,000 delegates. The gathering was the first of many scheduled by the central leadership to sound out the delegates and to try to create consensus on various issues. [REDACTED]

There is speculation in Warsaw that another Central Committee plenum will be held to put the finishing touches on congress documents, including the rules for electing the new leadership. The heated debates on election procedures probably will be carried over to the congress itself. Some reformers, for example, may urge direct election of the Politburo by the congress rather than by the new Central Committee. [REDACTED]

Only four members of the 19-man party leadership failed to win delegate seats. They include a close associate of former party leader Gierek and the two workers who were brought into the Politburo in April. Even with Kania's support, controversial Politburo member Stefan Olszowski barely won election. The Polish news agency claims that 80 percent of the delegates elected have never held party office and that 30 percent belong to Solidarity. [REDACTED]

Soviet Envoy's Comments

Ambassador Aristov [REDACTED] decried "anarchy" in Poland and disorientation within the Polish party but expressed hope that the party will emerge strengthened from the coming congress. Aristov claimed that many of the delegates to the congress are unknown to his Embassy but that it is "no bad thing for a party to take in new blood." [REDACTED]

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The Soviet Ambassador commented that the letter of 5 June from the Soviet Central Committee has had "a good effect" on Polish leaders. This is the first indication of such an assessment by a Soviet official. If Aristov's reporting to Moscow contains such upbeat notes, it will offer the Soviet leaders at least some grounds to hope that the congress will not be totally negative to Soviet interests. [REDACTED]

Romanian Support for Poles

Romania blocked a meeting of Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers scheduled for late this month, according to a Czechoslovak diplomat in Bucharest. The Romanians may have feared that the meeting, which presumably would have been held in Bucharest, would adopt a hardline statement on Poland, thus forcing them either to abandon their generally moderate stance on the Polish crisis or risk a direct break with their Warsaw Pact allies. [REDACTED]

Despite Bucharest's clear disapproval of the liberalization now taking place in Poland, it has taken the position that the Poles should be left alone to solve their problems. President Ceausescu's public expression of support for Kania and confidence in Poland's ability to overcome the "present situation" in a speech on Friday contrasts with recent critical statements from Moscow, Prague, and Sofia. [REDACTED]